



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Foundation for Surgery



Gratitude Report 2022

A Letter from the Chair

To our donors,

I, on behalf of the RACS Foundation for Surgery, would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support throughout 2022.

This past year has seen many challenges again, including the continuous impacts of COVID-19, global economic and financial troubles, rises in the cost of living, floods and many more. However, despite these challenges, the Foundation for Surgery has been able to continue to raise much needed funds for activities allowing increased access to quality surgical and health care programs to those who need it in Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, and in the Asia Pacific region, and all thanks to you, our donors.

Over the past year, the Foundation has been able to support and assist with several projects through the RACS Global Health program. You can read more about this incredible work in the following report.

The Foundation has also been able to support the Indigenous and Māori communities in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, respectively. We are looking forward to supporting more in this area as new philanthropic projects are developed.

The Foundation for Surgery Committee has spent much of 2022 developing a new Strategic Plan to span 2022-2024. Through this new Strategic Plan, we are implementing ways to make donating easier for our donors, becoming more environmentally sustainable, increasing communication with donors and stakeholders, developing new partnerships, and supporting more areas in need by expanding funding to include philanthropic projects in rural and regional areas, education and in each state and territory and Aotearoa New Zealand.

This year has also seen the introduction of a new Foundation for Surgery Manager, Tess Green, who joins Vanessa Bramfitt, the Foundation Philanthropic and Engagement Co-Ordinator.

The Foundation for Surgery Committee and team look forward to an exciting 2023, and working with you, our donors, to continue the vision to raise the much-needed funding to strive for a world where all children, families and communities can access quality surgical care when they need it most.

To all of you and your families, the Foundation for Surgery wishes you a wonderful year for 2023.

John Batten,
Chair, Foundation for Surgery



SCAN TO MAKE A DONATION

Impact in Action

The extraordinary compassion and kindness of the Foundation for Surgery donors makes an incredible difference throughout Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region, but don’t just take our word for it...

Dr Lance Buckthought was able to enrich his own surgical skills, as well as give back to the community with his Māori SET Trainee One Year Scholarship.

“Te Ao Māori (the Māori world) is a big part of my life, the scholarship gave me the means to attend conferences, courses and continue with my mentoring and teaching of Māori students and junior doctors. If you have someone in that position [a mentor] who you can identify with and relate to who takes down those barriers, you can see yourself getting there... [and] we know that increasing the number of Māori doctors and surgeons’ results in better outcomes for our Māori patients.”

Dr Lance Buckthought
An Otolaryngology Trainee and recipient of the Māori SET Trainee One Year Scholarship

“I am thankful for this opportunity to learn and upgrade my knowledge while I am taking care of patients, especially for COVID-19 patients.”

Pacific Islands Nurse
Participant in the Global Health Nursing Support Surgical Forum

Dr Sepiuta Lopati is working to introduce screening and early intervention for childhood ear disease in her home country.

“[In Tonga] there’s little awareness or education about ear health, particularly in children... The kids have to come by boat and some of them have had very complicated ear problems... If we have difficult cases and need a team to come to Tonga, we contact the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. We collect all the patients, and the team stays for a week and operates [with us]. They also give us training and that way we learn more advanced surgical skills.”

Dr Sepiuta Lopati
One of the first Tongan based ENT Surgeons, now working with visiting Global Health DFAT funded surgical teams

Dr Arjun Iyer’s scholarship enabled him to fine-tune his skills in an internationally recognised institution, which he hopes will contribute to the establishment of a service in South Australia.

“The scholarship was very much about further developing my established skillset, both technically and in decision-making. It provided me with the opportunity to learn from master surgeons.”

Dr Arjun Iyer FRACS
A Cardiothoracic Surgeon and recipient of the prestigious RACS Margorie Hooper Travel Scholarship



8
In-country,
locally led
training
courses
conducted

7
Short courses
conducted



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Health

Facilitating long-term change by addressing some of the cultural, social and economic barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori people being over-represented in the poor determinants of health through supporting aspiring Indigenous surgeons in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Working to enhance recognition and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori health issues, promoting excellence in care and improving understanding of culturally appropriate treatment through education and advocacy.

341
Pacific
clinicians
participated in
18 activities



42
Surgical procedures
delivered over 3 clinical
VMT deployments in
Fiji, the Cook Islands
and Nauru

14
Pacific nurses
graduate from an
online Postgraduate
Certificate in
Perioperative Nursing



Global Health

- 5 conference attendances (for clinicians from Tonga, the Cook Islands and Kiribati).
- 9 clinical instructional videos developed.
- Surgical simulation training project PIVOTS piloted in partnership with the Monash Children's Simulation Centre and FUN in Fiji.
- RACS in collaboration with Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN) supported the Pacific Island Operating Room Nursing Association (PIORNA) with the development of the Standards for Perioperative Nursing in Pacific Countries and Territories. Online modules have also been developed to support these standards.
- Directors of Clinical Services (DSC) and Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery (PHONM) meeting attendance and presentation in Fiji.
- PIP Partner Reflection Workshops held in Fiji to reflect on the previous phase of the program.
- 2 refurbished Zeiss microscopes were donated to Baucau and Maliana Hospital (Timor-Leste).
- Cataract and other surgical instruments donated to National Eye Centre operating theatre (Timor-Leste).
- 3-day General Instructor Course (GIC) and Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) course to run in Port Moresby in Nov – Dec 2023 (PNG).
- Baseline report conducted for the Paediatric Critical Care Capacity Building project (PNG and Timor-Leste). Briefing conducted with stakeholders in both countries.

29
2022
Research
round
scholarship
recipients

27
2023
Research
round
scholarship
recipients

25
2022
Learning and
Development
scholarship
recipients

Research and Scholarships

Forging higher levels of excellence in surgical practice through supporting ground-breaking research to ensure the safety, effectiveness and appropriateness of surgical practice is based on the best evidence, and all people have access to enhanced levels of early detective, surgical care and treatment when they need it.

Supporting advocacy for higher levels of patient care to ensure that surgeons and other health professionals have the most up-to-date knowledge to provide the highest quality patient care.





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